

Amendments to the Claims: Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of citalopram, comprising ~~characterized in that:~~

(a) treating 5-cyanophthalide ~~is treated~~ with a mixture of 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide and 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide and, without isolating an intermediate,

(b) ~~adding the obtained mixture is treated with~~ an organic acid, an inorganic acid, or triphenylphosphine and ethyl azadicarboxylate, ~~a phosphine, or with a labile ester-forming group and a base~~

thereby producing citalopram without isolating an intermediate.

2. (Currently amended) A The process ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized by the use of~~ using from 1.8 to 2.0 moles of 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide, for each mole of 5-cyanophthalide.

3. (Currently amended) A The process ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized by the use of~~ using from 1.09 to 1.2 moles of 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide, for each mole of 5-cyanophthalide.

4. (Currently amended) A The process ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized by the use of~~ using from 1.7 to 1.6 moles of 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide, ~~are used~~ for each mole of 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide.

5. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ process according to of claim 1, characterized by the ~~fact that~~ wherein the 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide is a bromide.

6. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ process according to of claim 1, characterized by the ~~fact that~~ wherein the 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide is a chloride.

7. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ process according to of claim 1, characterized by the ~~fact that said~~ wherein the acid has a pK comprised from 0 to 3.

8. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ process according to of claim 1, characterized by the ~~fact that said~~ wherein the acid has a pK comprised from 2 to 3.

9. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ process according to of claim 7, characterized by the ~~fact that said~~ wherein the acid is ~~ortho~~ortho-phosphoric acid.

10. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ process according to of claim 7, characterized by the ~~fact that~~ wherein the acid is used in a concentration comprised from 55 to 95% by weight, preferably in concentration of about 85% by weight.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ process according to of claim 1, characterized by the ~~fact that the process is~~ carried out in an organic polar aprotic solvent.

17. (Currently amended) A The process according to of claim 16, characterized by ~~the fact that the process is~~ carried out in from 1.0 to 1.6 litres of solvent, for each mole of 5-cyanophthalide.

18. (Currently amended) A The process according to of claim 16, characterized by ~~the fact that~~ wherein the solvent is selected from tetrahydrofuran and/or toluene.

19. (Currently amended) (Currently amended) A The process according to of claim 1, characterized by the fact that the step (a) is carried out at ~~20/+20~~ -20 to +20° C.

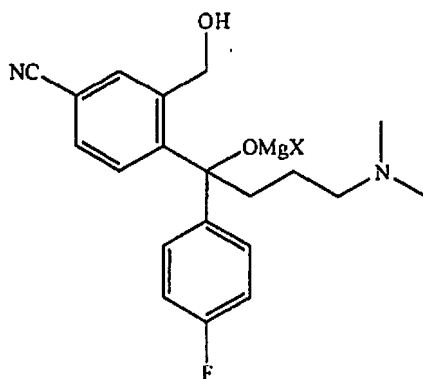
20. (Currently amended) A The process according to of claim 1, characterized by ~~the fact that the~~ wherein step (a) is carried out at ~~-10/0~~ -10 to 0° C.

21. (Currently amended) A The process according to of claim 1, characterized by ~~the fact that the~~ wherein step (b) is carried out at ~~-10/+20~~ -10 to +20° C.

22. (Currently amended) A The process according to of claim 1, characterized by ~~the fact that the~~ wherein step (b) is carried out at ~~0/+10~~ 0 to +10° C.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A Gcompound of formula:



where X is an a halogen, ~~preferably chlorine or bromine.~~

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The compound of claim 24, wherein X is chlorine or bromine.

27. (New) A one pot process for the preparation of citalopram, comprising:

combining 5-cyanophthalide 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide and 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide in a pot, and, without isolating an intermediate, performing acid catalysed cyclization, thereby producing citalopram in one pot without isolating an intermediate.